



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/862,549	05/22/2001	Yoshiyasu Kubota	SONYJP 3.0-172	1289

7590 04/07/2004

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP  
600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST  
WESTFIELD, NJ 07090-1497

EXAMINER
----------

KIM, AHSHIK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2876

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/862,549	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KUBOTA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Ahshik Kim	<b>Art Unit</b> 2876	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION*****Amendment***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed on December 16, 2003. In the  
5 amendment claims 12, 16, 18, and 22 were amended, and claims 26-28 were newly  
added. Currently, claims 12-28 remain for examination.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that  
10 form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by  
another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted  
on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant  
15 for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall  
have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the  
international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such  
treaty in the English language.

20 3. Claims 12, 18, 22, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being  
anticipated by Potega (US 6,459,175, "Potega" hereinafter).

Potega teaches an electronic device 13 for performing at least one function (col.  
13, lines 10+), comprising a register for storing a power/current consumption value (col.  
71, line 61 – col. 72, line 6), and interface device 42 for providing the current (col. 48,  
25 lines 1+). When power is supplied from the main unit, an algorithm is used to approach  
the maximum current without exceeding it (col. 17, lines 3-15).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Art Unit: 2876

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 13-17, 19-21, 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagata (US 6,609,072, "Yamagata" hereinafter) in view of Yeom (US 5,911,080, "Yeom" hereinafter) and Potega (US 6,459,175).

Re claims 15, 16, 18, and 22, Yamagata teaches a plurality of electronic devices 15a, 15b, 15cs for performing at least one function, which can be connected to a main unit (i.e., PC). Each device is connected to the main unit via switches 16a, 16b, and 16c for data and power communication (figure 2; col. 7, lines 33+). The main unit contains electricity consumption table 30 for each electronic devices to provide adequate power for input/output operation (see abstract; figure 3; col. 2, lines 40+).

Yamagata fails to specifically teach or fairly suggest that each device contains a register for storing current consumption values.

Art Unit: 2876

Yeom teaches a computer system receiving power supply from power source only after identification and other information, which is stored on ID card 10 within the computer, is read and verified (see abstract; col. 2, lines 41+).

In view of Yeom's teaching, it would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to store identification information onto connecting devices rather than a main unit in order to provide added security for sensitive information for each devices. By compiling device-related information within the main unit, the main unit, unintendedly becomes information repository and be vulnerable for theft of critical information. Moreover, having such information on receiving devices, the electronic devices can be connected to any generic main unit (without such table and necessary software) and still receives necessary power for operation, and therefore an obvious expedient.

Yamagata/Yeom fails to specifically teach or fairly suggest that the electronic device is separate from the main unit.

As discussed in paragraph 3 above, Potega teaches a power-supplying system wherein the unit provides driving current to a plurality of electronic devices (see figures 1 and 10; col. 1, lines 15+; col. 11, lines 54+).

In view of Potega's teaching, it would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify power-supplying unit separate from the electronic devices in order to use the power source for other devices. Although not explicitly suggested, electronic devices 15a – 15c disclosed in Yamagata can be a floppy disk drive, or a modem (col. 7, lines 33-45). Accordingly, designing power source separate from the supplied device can be contemplated by one ordinary skill in the art.

Art Unit: 2876

Re claims 13 and 23, for each device, there exist corresponding header information, which is identification information and can be considered permission information.

Re claims 14, 20, and 24, operation can be achieved based on evaluation of power consumption record for a particular device, and remaining power in the power supply, and such determination is, in fact, enablement or disablement information.

Re claims 17, 21, and 25 embodiment of connectable electronic devices 15a, 15b, and 15c are keyboard, LCD display, and a disk drive (col. 7, lines 33-45), which includes not only physical devices and corresponding driver programs which would have release number or a version number

Re claim 19, as the setting changes for a particular device, updated power requirement information is written to the power consumption table (col. 8, line 60 – col. 9, line 3).

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's amended claims and remarks filed on December 16, 2003 have been given careful consideration.

As discussed in paragraphs 3, and 6 above, Applicant's arguments with respect to the amended claims further clarifying the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Relying on figures and background of the instant application, Examiner notes that the electronic device is equivalent to memory card or a similar semiconductor memory. As suggested in previous Office Action, further limiting the independent claims may

Art Unit: 2876

expedite in prosecuting this application. It is the Examiner's view that numerous devices are "Electronic device for performing at least one function."

### ***Conclusion***

5 Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE  
10 MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the  
15 advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Sato (US 5,754,435); Saito (US 6,301,674); Nakajima (US 6,442,699) disclose a system supplying power to electronic devices. Applicant is  
20 respectfully suggested to carefully review these references.

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Ahshik Kim* whose telephone number is (571)272-2393. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 6:00AM to 3:00PM Monday thru Friday.

25 If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571)272-2398. The fax number directly

Art Unit: 2876

to the Examiner is (571)273-2393. The fax phone number for this Group is (703)872-9306.

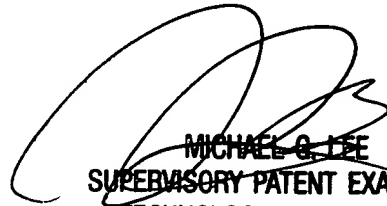
Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [ahshik.kim@uspto.gov].

*All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.*

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Ahshik Kim  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2876  
April 1, 2004



MICHAEL G. LEE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800